
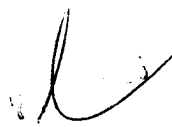



OCA 86-1505  
6 May 1986


MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director ✓  
DDCI

FROM: Dave Gries  

SUBJECT: Breakfast for Senator Hecht and Representative  
Mack on Wednesday, 7 May


Senators Hecht and Gramm and Representative Mack visited Central America from 25 through 27 April. After their return, they requested an opportunity to convey their impressions to you, and we set up the breakfast in response. Senator Gramm could not attend.

STAT Senator Hecht 

STAT  is also on Banking and Energy.

Representative Mack has had frequent and valuable contact with the Agency through his position on Foreign Affairs, where he has often been briefed. He is also on Budget. His district includes Sarasota and Cape Coral.

Our visitors will presumably convey their views on Central America voluntarily. You could ask if there is anything they learned in Central America that would be a useful addition to our briefings of Members.

STAT Also attending are the DDCI, DDO,  and myself.

Nevada - Junior Senator

## Chic Hecht (R)

Of Las Vegas — Elected 1982

**Born:** Nov. 30, 1928, Cape Girardeau, Mo.  
**Education:** Washington U. (St. Louis), B.S. 1949.  
**Military Career:** Army, 1951-53.  
**Occupation:** Clothing store owner.  
**Family:** Wife, Gail Kahn; two children.  
**Religion:** Jewish.  
**Political Career:** Nev. Senate, 1967-75.  
**Capitol Office:** 302 Hart Bldg. 20510; 224-6244.

**In Washington:** A shy, unassuming man who freely admits he is no expert on national issues, Hecht spent his first two years in the Senate just trying to learn the basics of how the place works. Virtually invisible in Washington, he seems to go out of his way to avoid attention.

"I've been out of public life for eight years and it takes time to reorient yourself," Hecht said after his election in 1982. He quickly ran up a lengthy list of issues on which he did not want to take a position, pending further study.

Since then, Hecht has been a dutiful student. He has compiled a good attendance record in his committees, listening patiently to witness after witness at hearings while other senators come and go. But he remains an unpolished speaker who sometimes has trouble reading prepared statements aloud. He does not always use his opportunities to ask questions — especially since an early foray on the Banking Committee, when his question to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul A. Volcker was greeted with hostility from the audience.

Hecht's career is dominated by his loyalty to his Nevada colleague, Paul Laxalt, and to President Reagan. Elected with both men's help, he rarely disagrees with either; his voting record tracks Laxalt's closely, and he ardently proclaims his support for the president's economic and defense policies.

Seemingly more relaxed in Nevada than he is in the Senate, Hecht spends several weeks a year touring the vast state as part of his "Chats with Chic" caravan. Even there, however, he takes care to protect himself from appearing ill-informed; he travels with as many as 10 staffers from his Washington office ready to outline his views to questioners.

Hecht became chairman of the Banking Subcommittee on Housing at the start of the 99th Congress, after more senior members on the panel declined the position. He had little involvement with housing issues during his first



two years, however.

During the 98th Congress, Hecht chaired the Insurance Subcommittee. That panel was not very active, but Hecht did play a role in 1983 legislation extending the federal insurance program and terminating federal insurance against riots.

Hecht cites as his most significant achievement in the Senate his work in passage of legislation to extend the existing low rates charged on electric power provided by the Hoover Dam. Cheap power from the massive dam has been crucial to Nevada's economic growth, and Hecht and other western senators were determined to allow consumers to keep paying rates determined by the low cost of production, rather than the much higher market rates. The struggle was a difficult one; the bill passed only after the GOP leadership exerted intensive effort to defeat a filibuster by Ohio Democrat Howard M. Metzenbaum.

**At Home:** Consistently underestimated by his opponents and by the media, Hecht won his Senate seat in 1982 without ever having to elaborate on his one-note campaign scorecard, which pledged strong support for President Ronald Reagan but took almost no substantive stands on issues.

A longtime Reagan supporter, Hecht had favored the California governor at the 1966 GOP convention, and served in both the 1976 and 1980 Reagan campaigns. His support for the president played well in Nevada, where Reagan won handily in 1980 and was still very popular in 1982. Reagan rewarded Hecht's loyalty by campaigning twice in Nevada in 1982.

Even more instrumental to Hecht's success was the assistance he received from Laxalt, the state's senior senator. The Hecht-Laxalt connection dates to the late 1960s: Hecht served as minority leader in the state Senate in 1969 and

*Chic Hecht, R-Nev.*

1970, Laxalt's last two years as governor.

Before entering politics, Hecht had become a wealthy and prominent businessman, with holdings that centered on two Las Vegas ladies' apparel stores. In 1966 he became the first Republican in more than 25 years to win a state Senate seat in predominantly Democratic Clark County (Las Vegas). He was defeated for reelection in 1974.

By the time Hecht formally entered the U.S. Senate contest in 1982, two other candidates had been campaigning for the GOP nomination for months, and it was thought that Hecht would have trouble overcoming his rivals' head start. But Hecht put his effort on a firm financial footing by spending some \$400,000 of his own money.

Hecht expanded on his Clark County support base by obtaining commitments from influential party activists and officeholders across the state whom he had befriended as a legislator and as an official in Reagan's campaigns. Calling attention to the fact that none of his Republican rivals had ever won elective office, Hecht took the nomination with nearly 40 percent of the vote.

In the fall, Hecht benefited from momentum and from several factors that had weakened four-term Democratic incumbent Howard

W. Cannon. There had been a bitter nomination fight between Cannon and Rep. James D. Santini, and Santini's supporters, especially conservative Democrats, held a grudge against the senator. Cannon was also dogged throughout the year by the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC).

More important, Cannon was tainted by the bribery trial of several Teamsters officials charged with conspiring to offer him a good price on union-controlled land in Las Vegas if he would block a trucking deregulation bill. Although Cannon was not charged with any wrongdoing, some voters faulted him for associating with unsavory characters.

Even worse for Cannon, he took a nonchalant attitude toward Hecht, leaving the challenger's media ads all but unanswered during the crucial month of October. Cannon did not try to debate Hecht, although he probably should have done so. He had performed well in debates with Santini, and he almost certainly would have triumphed over Hecht, who has a halting style and a minor speech impediment.

As Election Day approached, Cannon sensed peril, but by then it was too late for him to shift the campaign dialogue; voters were thinking more about Cannon's voting record and ethics than about Hecht's credentials.

### Committees

**Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs** (7th of 8 Republicans)  
Housing and Urban Affairs (chairman); Financial Institutions and Consumer Affairs; International Finance and Monetary Policy; Securities

**Energy and Natural Resources** (9th of 10 Republicans)  
Energy Regulation and Conservation; Energy, Research and Development; Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation

**Select Intelligence** (7th of 8 Republicans)

### Elections

**1982 General**  
Hecht (R) 120,377 (50%)  
Howard W. Cannon (D) 114,720 (48%)

**1982 Primary**  
Hecht (R) 26,940 (39%)  
R. J. Furey (R) 17,065 (25%)  
J. J. Kennedy (R) 12,191 (18%)  
Sam Chandler (R) 6,327 (9%)

### Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1982			
Hecht (R)	\$1,397,197	\$250,010 (18%)	\$1,352,547
Cannon (D)	\$1,642,261	\$595,665 (36%)	\$1,625,042

### Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1984	84	9	95	2	91	2
1983	91	9	94	6	91	9

S = Support

O = Opposition

### Key Votes

Overturn Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion (1983)	Y
Allow chemical weapons production (1983)	Y
Create Martin Luther King Jr. holiday (1983)	N
Bar funding for MX missile (1983)	N
Permit school prayer (1984)	Y
Cut military aid to El Salvador (1984)	N
Keep tax indexing (1984)	Y
Retain funds for "Star Wars" defense research (1984)	Y
Authorize procurement of 21 MX missiles (1985)	Y

### Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS-1	CCUS-2
1984	0	100	0	95	
1983	0	85	6	84	

Florida - 13th District

# 13 Connie Mack (R)

Of Cape Coral — Elected 1982

**Born:** Oct. 29, 1940, Philadelphia, Pa.  
**Education:** Univ. of Florida, B.S. 1966.  
**Occupation:** Banker.  
**Family:** Wife, Priscilla Hobbs; two children.  
**Religion:** Roman Catholic.  
**Political Career:** No previous office.  
**Capitol Office:** 504 Cannon Bldg. 20515; 225-2536.

**In Washington:** With his good looks, appealing personality, impressive business background and safe district, Mack is well equipped to blaze a trail toward influence in the House. So far, though, he has been inclined more to take cues than to strike out on his own. An active member of the Conservative Opportunity Society, the organization of militant junior GOP conservatives, he has spoken up for the group with such unrestrained enthusiasm that he has come across to many colleagues primarily as a cheerleader.

Mack was instrumental in organizing a 1983 COS conference on how to make Republicans the national majority party. "This is the beginning of the beginning," he proclaimed enthusiastically as the conference began. But the one memorable result of the meeting was the buzzword "zzazip" (pizazz spelled backwards), which was meant to convey the COS goal of jazzing up the GOP's image and describing in contemporary language the party's commitment to traditional values.

Mack was led to COS and its strategy of partisan confrontation by a sense of impatience. "If you're going to leave a position that's as secure as I had — I mean being president of a bank is not a bad spot to be in — then you sure as hell don't go up (to Washington) with the intention of sitting back for numbers of years before trying to do something," Mack has said. He promotes the COS idea that Republicans should try to take control of the House by challenging rather than cooperating with the Democratic majority. "In politics, you gain energy from confrontation," he believes.

Mack has been more successful than most junior Republicans at securing good committee assignments. As soon as he arrived in Washington in 1983, he launched an intensive personal campaign to win a seat on the Budget Committee. It succeeded; he was the only freshman of either party named to Budget. In 1985, he also joined Foreign Affairs.



To promote President Reagan's call for spending restraint, Mack in 1983 asked members to sign a letter pledging to sustain any Reagan veto of a money bill he deemed too costly. Mack got 146 members to sign the letter, enough to block any veto overrides, and he presented it to Reagan in person. Mack used the same tactic in 1985 to assure Reagan that the House would sustain his veto of any tax increase.

**At Home:** Most people in the 13th need no introduction to Mack, the grandson of one of baseball's legendary owners and managers. Many elderly voters still hold vivid memories of the days when the elder Connie Mack prowled the Philadelphia Athletics' dugout.

The 13th was open in 1982 because GOP Rep. L. A. "Skip" Bafalis sought the governorship. Mack's name gave him an obvious advantage over four primary opponents, each of whom had more political experience but only local political support. Mack was the only primary candidate who ran well in each of the four counties in the district.

Mack finished first in the primary, then won the runoff handily, even though opponent Ted Ewing tried to paint him as a liberal for supporting the Equal Rights Amendment and legalized abortion. Once nominated, he was guaranteed election over an under-financed Democrat in the solidly Republican 13th. In 1984, Mack was re-elected without opposition.

Named president of his bank at age 35, Mack was appointed to the board of directors of the Miami branch of the Federal Reserve Bank in November 1981. He resigned when he announced his 1982 candidacy for Congress. Though that was his first try for public office, Mack had been active in civic affairs, such as founding a private drug abuse program and heading the local Chamber of Commerce.

Connie Mack, R-Fla.

## Florida 13

A glimpse at the 1984 presidential vote from the four counties in the 13th shows just how prohibitive the odds against a Democratic victory are. Walter F. Mondale did not reach 30 percent in any of the three counties wholly within the 13 — Lee, Sarasota and Charlotte. Collier County, with about half of its people in the district, gave Mondale all of 21 percent.

The political personality of the 13th is shaped by retirees from the small-town Midwest. These people change their addresses but not their party registration, and they are a major contributor to the burgeoning strength of the GOP in Florida.

Sarasota and Lee counties each have about 40 percent of the district's residents, with the remaining 20 percent divided roughly evenly between Charlotte County and the section of Collier in the 13th.

Sarasota cultivates a refined image with its art museums, theaters and symphony performances, and it draws a wealthier class of retirees than most other west coast communities. It is also the traditional winter home of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum &

## Southwest — Sarasota; Fort Myers

Bailey Circus, although much of the entourage now spends the winter months a few miles south, at Venice. In Lee County, the city of Cape Coral, incorporated only in 1971, finished the decade with more than 30,000 people.

Fort Myers, also in Lee County, is having some difficulty meeting the demands of its growing population. There are occasional calls for it to adopt a slow-growth policy, following the example of conservationists on the islands of Sanibel and Captiva located just offshore from Fort Myers. These islands enforce stringent restrictions on development in order to protect their natural beauty and animal population.

Naples won the status of a small city with a 46 percent population explosion during the 1970s, gaining exclusive high-rise condominiums to mark its maturity.

Population: 513,048. White 476,818 (93%), Black 29,190 (6%). Spanish origin 11,102 (2%). 18 and over 413,477 (81%), 65 and over (27%). Median age: 47.

## Committees

**Budget** (7th of 13 Republicans)  
Task Forces: State and Local Government (ranking); Economic Policy; Income Security

**Foreign Affairs** (14th of 17 Republicans)  
International Economic Policy and Trade; International Operations

## Elections

**1984 General**  
Connie Mack (R) Unopposed

**1982 General**  
Connie Mack (R) 132,951 (65%)  
Diana Stevens (D) 71,239 (35%)

### District Vote For President

1984		1980		1976	
D	73,407 (26%)	D	68,062 (28%)	D	72,886 (41%)
R	207,548 (74%)	R	165,630 (67%)	R	102,769 (58%)
		I	11,406 (5%)		

## Campaign Finance

Year	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1984			
Mack (R)	\$488,097	\$63,013 (13%)	\$452,221

1982

Year	Mack (R)	Stevens (D)
1982	\$501,482	\$36,122
	\$46,985 (9%)	\$11,625 (32%)
	\$496,829	\$35,974

## Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1984	76	21	94	4	92	8
1983	77	20	94	4	92	6

S = Support O = Opposition

## Key Votes

Raise Social Security retirement age to 67 (1983)	Y
Bar covert U.S. aid to Nicaragua (1983)	N
Reduce dairy price supports (1983)	Y
Pass Equal Rights Amendment (1983)	Y
Freeze physicians' fees under Medicare (1984)	Y
Bar aid to anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua (1984)	N
Pass bill to revise immigration laws (1984)	N
Cut education spending (1984)	Y
Authorize procurement of 21 MX missiles (1985)	Y

## Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1984	5	95	15	94
1983	15	89	6	89